

FOURTH SECTION (D) - REMARKS

Claims 1-5. These claims were rejected on references. The subject matter of these claims is incorporated in new claim 20. The subject matter of these claims is believed entirely new from the references applied against them. In the present case it includes a panel which can be applied easily to the frame of the cart. The new claim (20) includes the recitation of the shelves in the cart. The panel is applied to the shelf and there is no need of altering the structure of the cart to make the panel effective. The push buttons are on the panel, and they can be easily manipulated by the user. Additionally, a very important feature of the invention is that the user when reaching for an article to be removed (or replaced) can be easily done, and in that movement, the users hand is positioned closely adjacent the push button and it can be actuated very easily by that same hand. Accordingly, the whole manipulation that occurs in handling the article, including the actuation of the push buttons, is very simple and easily performed. A record is made of the complete operation, including the number of articles in each of the bins. The saving in time in performing this operation is immense. The structures shown in the prior art are believed not to be at all similar to the present device, nor do they suggest the specific elements recited in the claims.

Accordingly , it is believed that claim 20 is allowable.

Reference is next made to claim 6, 7 and 8. The subject matter of these claims is contained in newly added claim 21. This claim is dependent from new claim 20, and includes the computer for recording the articles in the respective bins and also recording the withdrawing of the articles from the respective bins.

Claim 9 has been amended to be dependent from new claim 21 and includes the plurality of supply carts of identical construction. The computer means is capable of receiving signals from each of the supply carts and functioning in relation to all of the supply carts. This is a very specific structure and functioning arrangement that is believed not found in the references, and allowance of the claim is requested.

Claim 11. The basis of rejection is noted, namely the absence of recording means. Attention is directed to original claim 1, line 12, and claim 7 line 4. It is believed therefore that the claim is clearly distinct from the other claims, and includes the basis for the recording means.

Claim 12. This claim has been amended to overcome the objection based on the incorrect expression " may be" and is now believed allowable from the standpoint of ambiguity. The claim also has been amended to be dependent from claim 21 which supersedes the reference to claim 6, since the subject matter of claim 6 is contained in claim 21. Claim 17 has been amended to be dependent from claim 21 and for the reasons set out above in support of claim 21, it is believed that claim 17 is allowable.

The provisional rejection of claims 1-19 in paragraph 9, page 6 of the Action is noted, and since the copending application, No. 10/084,075 is abandoned, it is requested that the objection on this basis be withdrawn.

Claims 13-16 The rejection of these claims in paragraph 10 of the Patent Office Action is noted and in view of the cancellation of the claims in the copending application referred to above, it is requested that these claims (Claims 13-16) be formally allowed.

Claim 17 This claim has been amended to be dependent from claim 21 and in view of the remarks above in purport of the latter claim, it is believed that the present claim (17) is allowable.

New claims 22-27 are added to render the scope of all of the claims taken together more complete relative to the prior art cited, and to cover the novel features of the present invention.

One of the main features of the present invention is the relatively greater independence of the individual units making up the entire apparatus. Claim 22 recites the units as all being open, and brings in the bins in the carts. Both storage bins and supply bins are readily accessible to the operator, and the claim includes the computer for registering the signals from the push buttons. The operation and use of the apparatus is extremely simple, the articles upon being retrieved from

the storage bins are recorded, and a similar recordation is performed concerning the movement of the articles from the supply carts to the ultimate user (eg. patient).

Claim 23, dependent from claim 21 brings in more details of the retrieval of the articles from the supply bins to the ultimate receiver.

Claim 24 is directed to the two sets of panels, each including push buttons. The push buttons in the two panels are so interrelated as to be selectively usable by the operator of the apparatus. Nothing similar to this feature is shown or indicated in the prior art cited.

Claim 25, dependent from claim 24 is directed to the panels of the second set being mounted on the supply carts and also in reference to the panels of the main set.

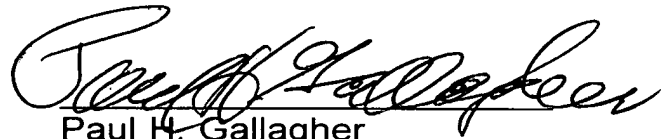
Claim 26 is directed to the feature that the panels of the second set are mounted on the supply cart, and they are so mounted in operable position wherein they mechanically inhibit the actuation of the push buttons of the main set.

Claim 27 includes details of construction of the carts and the specific interrelation of the push buttons in the two sets and their relation to the bins of the carts.

New claims 28-41 cover various alternative forms of instrumentalities and devices that fall within the scope of the generic claims preceding them. The specific instrumentalities are all of known form and do not constitute new matter.

It is believed that the claims now in the application, and as now amended, are all allowable and formal notice of allowance is requested.

Respectively submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul H. Gallagher", is written over a horizontal line.

Paul H. Gallagher
Attorney for Applicant
2439 Jackson Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201

Tel: 847-328-7519
Fax: 847-475-4364